

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CU-02 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4208

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ML, KN

SUBJ: MALI'S YOUTH FESTIVAL

1. MALI'S YOUTH FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS, CULTURE AND SPORTS
OPENED JULY 3 TO CAPACITY CROWD IN HUGE SOVIET-BUILT
STADIUM IN BAMAKO. NORTH KOREAN TEAM HAD DRILLED MALIANS
IN FLASHAURARD TABLEAU DISPLAYS AND RESULTS GENERALLY WERE
IMPRESSIVE. OF INTEREST WAS LARGELY NON-IDEOLOGICAL
CONTENT OF DISPLAYS--OUT OF 16 DIFFERENT TABLEAU, ONLY
THREE CARRIED POLITICAL MESSAGE: (A) YOUTH OF MALI RALLY
ROUND THE MILITARY COMMITTEE; (B) FOR AN INDEPENDENT
NATIONAL ECONOMY; (C) PEOPLE OF THE THIRD WORLD UNITE*
THE REST SHOWED FAMILIAR BAMAKO SCENES, THE PRESIDENT'S
FACE, SPORTS, YOUTH, VEGETABLES, FARM ANIMALS, ETC.
TOWARDS THE END, THE TABLEAU WERE SLOPPY AND SOME
DISSOLVED IN CONFUSION.

2. PRESIDENT, ALL MEMBERS OF MILITARY COMMITTEE,
MINISTERS AND DIPLOMATIC CORPS ATTENDED. TOWARD
CLOSE, DAY WAS MARRED BY LACK OF DIRECTION AND
DISCIPLINE AMONG YOUNG PERFORMERS (ABOUT 1500) WHO
BEGAN TO CROWD AROUND DANCE GROUPS AT FINALE. RIFLE
CARRYING POLICE, GENDARMES AND REGULAR TROOPS SWINGING
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BELTS MADE REPEATED U
D TOTALLY UNCOORDINATED DASHES
INTO CROWD, SENDING THEM FLEEING FIRST ONE WAY AND
THEN ANOTHER. PERFORMERS WERE BETWEEN 8 AND 18 YEARS
OF AGE AND MOOD WAS ONE OF INNOCENT ENTHUSIASM.
CHARGE NOTED THAT PRESIDENT AND OTHER SENIOR MALIANS
REGARDED THIS DISORDER WITH AMUSEMENT. FINALLY
SECURITY CHIEF LT. COL. TIECORO BAGAYOKO WENT DOWN
AND TOOK PERSONAL CHARGE, RESTORING DISCIPLINE AMONG
TROOPS AND POLICE AND FINALLY CLEARING YOUNGSTERS
AWAY. SITUATION AGAIN DETERIORATED, HOWEVER, AND
FIRE TRUCK BACKED BY TROOPS WAS CALLED IN TO CLEAR
STADIUM GROUNDS. MALIAN POLICE, GENDARMES AND TROOPS
SHOWED NEAR TOTAL LACK
OFCROWD CONTROL ABILITY.
MOST OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS WAS APPALLED BY THE DISORDERS.
DAWKINS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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